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Bulova Byline
Chairman's Monthly Report
March 2010

- The media has dubbed it **Snowmageddon**. Sometimes **Snowpocalypse**. Whatever the label, the snow events Fairfax County experienced in February made history. Together, the back-to-back storms of February 5th/6th and February 10th dumped 54.9 inches of snow on the Washington area – breaking a 111 year record for the region. I was glad the media had warned us to be prepared to shelter in place!

Throughout the storms and their aftermath, my office and I returned thousands of phone and e-mail messages from individuals and neighborhood representatives. As I pointed out in my ***Late Breaking News E-Bulletin*** of February 12th, essentially all roads in our County are owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). While VDOT's "bosses" are the Governor and Secretary of Transportation (not the County), my staff and I worked throughout the week and weekends to report unplowed streets and safety concerns, and in some cases to visit trouble spots in person. To respond to our situation, VDOT crews from all over Virginia were deployed to assist with getting Fairfax County's secondary and neighborhood streets opened up.



At our abbreviated Board Meeting on February 9th, our Board declared a "Local Emergency", making us potentially eligible for reimbursement for some of the costs for clearing County facilities such as police and fire stations, the courthouse, commuter lots, schools, parks and libraries. When I arrived at the Government Center that day, I found the Board Conference Center strewn with military cots for **National Guardsmen** who were assisting Fairfax County Police and Fire & Rescue personnel with responding to emergency calls, and with getting doctors and nurses, from their homes to hospitals. Cleared spaces in the Government Center Parking lot contained military trucks and Humvees.

On Monday, February 15th, my colleagues and I coordinated with School officials to mount a major **Volunteer Dig Out** to improve safety (as much as possible) for children returning to school the next day.

The Sheriff's Department's **Community Labor Force** (non-violent prisoners accompanied by guards) supplemented volunteer efforts to shovel and hack through mountains of snow and ice around schools. On that Tuesday, police officers were stationed around schools and crossing areas to help ensure the safety of children walking and being dropped off at school.

With the storm events behind us (I hope!!), our Board has scheduled a **Snow Summit on March 16th** to examine and discuss what went right, and what went wrong. The Summit will be held at the Government Center beginning at 3:30 p.m. and will be televised on cable channel 16 and will be streaming online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm>.

Our most current weather-related issue is **pot holes**. With thawing and freezing, pot holes are creating a new safety problem. You can report by calling 800-367-7689 (ROAD) or completing the work request form at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>. The regional VDOT office can be reached at 703-383-8368 or by email at novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov. And, as with plowing efforts, my office is glad to contact VDOT on your behalf. In the words of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, "O Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" I hope so!

- Members of our Fairfax County **Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Team, VATF-1** returned from 90 degree weather in Haiti, where they had rescued earthquake victims from the rubble of collapsed buildings, to face three feet of snow here at home. A reception to honor our USAR Team has been rescheduled from February 9th to **March 9th, at 8:30 a.m.** at the Government Center. Their formal recognition is scheduled for 9:15 a.m., at the beginning of our Board Meeting, and will be televised on cable channel 16.



- On February 23rd, the County Executive released his **Advertised Budget for Fiscal Year 2011** (which begins July 1, 2010.) His presentation included an updated financial forecast for FY 2011 with a projected shortfall of \$257.2 million. This is based on a 6% loss of revenue due mostly to declining residential and commercial real estate values and cuts from the State. The shortfall assumes no funding for salary adjustments or inflation.


You can watch Mr. Griffin's budget presentation via the county website's video-on-demand: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm>. You can also learn more about the FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan and the overall budget process at the county's website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget>. In a nutshell, the Advertised Budget closes the projected shortfall through:

- ✓ \$103.3 million in spending reductions of the General County side of the budget
- ✓ The elimination of 298 General County positions
- ✓ A 1% reduction in the School Operating Transfer (a cut of \$16.3 million)
- ✓ Application of balances/savings carried over from FY 2010 (\$37.9 million)
- ✓ An increase in the Real Estate tax rate of 5 cents (which results in a \$48 *decrease* in the average tax bill)
- ✓ A vehicle registration fee of \$33 per vehicle, which would raise \$27 million

The \$3.3 billion Advertised General Fund Budget (a combination of General County \$1.18 billion and School Transfer \$1.6 billion) is a **decrease of \$36 million, or 1.1%**, from FY 2010. It is 1.7% less than FY 2009. School Funding continues to be 54% of the total General Fund budget.

The Advertised Budget is on the table as a vehicle for constructive community feedback, reaction and discussion. See inside this Byline for dates of Town Meetings and Budget Forums where you can receive a briefing on details of the budget, ask questions and comment. Additionally, **public hearings** are scheduled before the Board of Supervisors on **April 6th, 7th, and 8th.** Throughout April, I will be meeting individually with my colleagues as we consider amendments to the advertised budget. Our Board will "mark up" (amend the advertised budget, including the amount of the School Transfer), on **April 20th.**

Please be assured that I am committed to making sure Fairfax County continues the investment needed to protect and enhance our primary community assets and quality of life, while continuing to be sensitive to taxpayers struggling with this difficult economy.



Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

STATEWIDE POTHOLE BLITZ



The Virginia
Department of
Transportation
(VDOT) will

focus efforts during March on patching thousands of potholes that serve as bumpy reminders of the hard winter Virginia has endured. This winter's repeated historic blasts of snow, ice, and rain coupled with colder than average temperatures have resulted in a proliferation of potholes on Virginia's roads. VDOT will use state crews and contractors to conduct a pothole blitz aimed at quickly identifying and repairing roadway hazards. VDOT is also asking for citizens' help to identify potholes as they form, to speed repairs.

Potholes form when moisture seeps into pavement, freezes, expands, and thaws. This cycle weakens the pavement. The weight of traffic loosens the pavement, and over time the pavement begins to crumble.

Crews have been working throughout the winter to patch the worst potholes, but pavement repair efforts have been hindered by repeated snowstorms and the frequent freeze-thaw cycle is creating potholes faster than crews can repair them.

Patching operations are prioritized by pothole severity and location, with some severe potholes on high traffic roads being filled within 24 hours, and most potholes on higher traffic roads being repaired within four days. Despite budget challenges, VDOT has not cut back on pothole repair because it is considered a safety program.

To report a pothole, citizens should visit www.VirginiaADOT.org or call VDOT's Highway Helpline at 800-367-7689 (ROAD). TTY users, call 711.



USAR RECOGNITION – MARCH 9

On January 26, 2010, I asked that the Urban Search and Rescue Team be invited to our Board Meeting on February 9th so that they could be officially thanked and recognized for their heroic efforts during their deployment to Haiti. Due to the heavy snow we experienced, we regretfully had to postpone this event. The Board will recognize them on **the morning of March 9th** and there will be a reception in the forum area of the Government Center for Team Members, their friends and family prior to our Board Meeting on that day.

TYSONS PLAN UPDATE

As you probably know, Fairfax County is working hard to develop new Comprehensive Plan text that will guide the transformation of Tysons Corner into a walkable, transit-oriented, and environmentally friendly urban center. I appreciate knowing your thoughts on this very important matter.

Our region has grown and prospered over the past 40 years. We will continue to grow during the next 40 years. Some of that growth will be in Fairfax County and today, with a population of nearly 1.2 million, we are planning ahead for how we will accommodate our future growth in a way that addresses the challenges our past growth patterns have presented us with.

As you may know, in September 2008 the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to accept the vision and recommendations presented to it by the Tysons Land Use Task Force, and directed the Planning Commission and staff to develop detailed Comprehensive Plan text. Throughout the last year, the Planning Commission's Tysons Committee has listened to dozens of stakeholder presentations and heard the results of public facility and transportation analyses and discussed multiple drafts of a plan for Tysons. The Tysons Plan is currently in its third draft and can be viewed at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/>.

The Planning Commission is inviting residents to comment on the draft by either signing up to speak at its March 11 or March 17 evening meetings in the Board Auditorium or sending an email to

TysonsCornerSpecialStudy@fairfaxcounty.gov.

In May, when the Planning Commission recommends a final draft, the plan will come to the Board of Supervisors for public hearing and adoption.

What is particularly important about the Tysons Vision is that it represents a shift in our planning paradigm. Growth is oriented around mass transit, which will include enhanced bus service and a new circulator within Tysons in addition to its four Metro stations. Tysons will be an urban growth center created to be less reliant on the automobile. It will provide people with multiple transportation options.

Of course this redevelopment must be carried out in a responsible way. The



Tysons Plan is a 40-year plan and not all growth and redevelopment will occur right away. The costs of some infrastructure elements, like the proposed grid of streets, will be recovered as redevelopment occurs. Space for public facilities is also expected to be obtained as landowners seek redevelopment of their individual parcels.

More urban, mixed-use, transit-oriented land-use patterns, in addition to our single family subdivisions, will provide County residents with a diversity of life style choices at all stages in life. By offering more transit-oriented, urban-style communities as we prepare for our future growth, we will be able to better address the transportation and environmental challenges that plague us today.

Town Meetings & Forums

Fiscal Year 2011 Advertised Budget

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
Monday, March 1, 2010	7:00 pm	Sully District Town Hall Rocky Run Middle School 4400 Stringfellow Road Chantilly, VA 20151-2506
Tuesday, March 2, 2010		Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations Walt Whitman Intermediate School 2500 Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	7:00 pm	Hunter Mill District Reston Community Center 1609-A Washington Plaza Reston, VA 20190
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	7:00 pm	Dranesville Budget Hearings Great Falls Grange 9818 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, VA 22066
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	7:30 pm	Southwood Civic Association Washington Mill Elementary 9100 Cherry Tree Drive Alexandria, VA 22309
Monday, March 8, 2010	12:00 pm	Inter-Service Club Council of Springfield American Legion Post 176 6520 Amherst Avenue Springfield, VA 22150
Tuesday, March 9, 2010	7:30 pm	Braddock District Council Braddock Hall Kings Park Library 9002 Burke Lake Road Burke, VA 22015
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	7:00 pm	Providence District Oakton High School 2900 Sutton Road Vienna, VA 22181
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	7:00 pm	Springfield District Town Hall Willow Springs Elementary School 5400 Willow Springs Road Fairfax, VA 22030
Thursday, March 11, 2010	7:00 pm	Dranesville Budget Hearings McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Avenue McLean, VA 22101
Thursday, March 11, 2010	7:00 pm	Springfield District Town Hall West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road

		Springfield, VA 22152
Monday, March 15, 2010	7:00 pm	Mason Town Hall Mason Government Center Community Room 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003
Monday, March 15, 2010	7:00 pm	Providence District Budget Marshall High School 7731 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22043
Monday, March 15, 2010	7:30 pm	Braddock District Robinson High School Cafeteria 5035 Sideburn Road Fairfax, VA 22032
Tuesday, March 16, 2010	7:15 pm	Providence District Council Dunn Loring Center 2334 Gallows Road Dunn Loring, VA 22027
Wednesday, March 17, 2010	10:30 am	League of Women Voters Packard Center 4020 Hummer Road Annandale, VA 22003
Wednesday, March 17, 2010	7:00 pm	Dranesville Budget Hearings Herndon Town Council Chamber 777 Lynn Street Herndon, 20170
Saturday, March 20, 2010	10:00 am	Braddock District Ravensworth Elementary School Cafeteria 5411 Nutting Drive Springfield, VA 22151
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	7:00 pm	Hunter Mill District James Madison High School Warhawk Hall 2500 James Madison Drive Vienna, VA 22181
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	7:30 pm	Braddock District Little Run Elementary School Cafeteria 4511 Olley Lane Fairfax, VA 22032
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	7:30 pm	Lee District Association Lee District Community Room 6121 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310

CRIME NUMBERS DOWN



Overall, crime decreased by almost 5% in 2009. Even more promising, violent crime decreased by 14.6%. Six out of the seven

categories used by law enforcement saw a reduction in crime numbers. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) is focusing heavily on the violent crimes that happen in Fairfax County and taking preventative steps for your safety, including keeping close tabs on repeat offenders.

One new change that will result in a temporary increase in numbers is the implementation of a new crime reporting system known as the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This system reports all crimes associated with an incident, rather than the most serious. Under the current system, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), using the hierarchy rule, only the highest offense of an incident is reported, even if several other lesser crimes were committed. Please keep in mind that this only applies to the crime reporting process. It does not affect number of charges for which a defendant may be tried. The new system will give a more complete picture of events and will allow for more detail in crime reporting.

\$150 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR FORT BELVOIR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

I recently met with U.S. Representative James Moran (D-8) along with other Fairfax County officials to discuss plans for the use of \$150 million in federal funding for transportation improvements around Fort Belvoir. Rep. Moran was able to secure federal funding for transportation improvements following the construction of the new Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, which will be handling about one third of the capacity currently held at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

While the new hospital may help many members of the community as well as military personnel, the increased traffic is a concern. To address these concerns, Rep. Moran, officials from the Army, Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration decided with Supervisor McKay and myself that the majority of funding should be used to widen Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1). The scope of the widening project depends on several factors, but ideally, widening would extend from Telegraph Road on the south side of Fort Belvoir to Buckman Lane. Other options for federal funds include improving transit access to Fort Belvoir.

PROJECT LIFESAVER PROGRAM

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office reminds families and caregivers that the Project Lifesaver program can search for and rescue loved ones who wander due to Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, autism and related diseases and disabilities.

Project Lifesaver clients wear a wristband that emits a silent tracking signal. When



caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that a loved one is missing, a highly trained team responds to the area with state-of-the-art tracking equipment. These efforts have drastically reduced search times to an average of 30 minutes or less. The Sheriff's Office found its first wandering client in under eight minutes!

Project Lifesaver currently has 28 clients and many more coming online. Clients must be residents of Fairfax County, Fairfax City and the Towns of Herndon or Vienna. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaver.htm> or contact Lieutenant Jason Travis at 703-246-2805 or e-mail shf-projectlifesaver@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VDOT MEGAPROJECT NEWS

By Mike Salmon, Virginia Megaprojects

The southbound lanes on I-95 will see an increase in work this coming spring as the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) ramps up work to stay ahead of the construction schedule for the I-95 widening from the Fairfax County Parkway to Occoquan. In the coming months, motorists and residents should see soundwalls going up, retaining walls being erected to support the additional lanes and steel beams span the Occoquan River on the northbound and southbound side to hold the additional lanes.

“There will be a lot going on this spring and early summer, but we are currently on track to finish and open the southbound fourth lane all the way down to the Route 1 on-ramp in fall 2010,” said Charlie Warraich, VDOT project manager.

On December 15, the additional northbound lane opened from the Route 1 on-ramp to the existing lanes near the Newington Commerce Center. At the county’s January 12 board meeting, Supervisor McKay recognized the I-95 widening phase which opened three miles of a new northbound lane just past the Route 1 ramp to the Fairfax County Parkway last month. McKay said motorists immediately felt impacts of as much as ten minutes of travel time saved between Route 1 and the Springfield Interchange, and expressed appreciation to Regional Transportation Program Director Nick Nicholson and for public outreach directed by Steve Titunik.

By June, the work on that Route 1 on-ramp will be completed, providing more access for motorists getting on I-95 North at that point. Soundwalls are also going up along I-95 North near the Pohick Estates neighborhood. There may be lane closings in that area during the day in the coming months, but a majority of the work will shift to the southbound side.

Along I-95 South, the additional southbound lane that will be complete by the fall of 2010 will stretch from the Fairfax County Parkway to Furnace Road. Along I-95 South, motorists and residents will see an increase in soundwall and retaining wall construction over the coming months.

On the southbound side, there are many drop-offs that require retaining walls to be built to hold the earth to support the new lane and minimize the environmentally sensitive wetland impacts. One of these drop offs one-half mile north of Furnace Road will require crews to install an 1800-foot retaining wall. This wall near Furnace Road is expected to take four to six months to complete.

Around the Occoquan Bridge, which is the final phase of the project, work is ahead of schedule as well. As

of early February, two of the six steel beams were erected using cranes from barges in the river. The six



spans range from 74 feet wide to 225 feet wide. All the beams are scheduled to be erected by May or June, and are being connected to each other and the existing bridge with cross frame and diaphragm members. A majority of this construction is being completed under the bridge deck, so passing motorists will not see much until the beams are in place.

This interstate widening project covers six miles of I-95 from Fairfax County to Prince William County. The project began in March 2008 and is on schedule to be completed by fall 2011. For more information, go to www.vamegaprojects.com.

Your ticket to
**National Consumer
Protection Week 2010**



March 7–13

Sunday, March 7	1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Consumer Focus: What's In Your Credit Report?	Fairfax County Government Channel 16
Monday, March 8 - Friday, March 12	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Consumer Affairs Information Booth	North Atrium Fairfax County Government Center
Monday, March 8	7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Seminar: CreditSmart Planning for Your Future	Reston Interfaith 11484 Washington Plaza W Reston, VA
Tuesday, March 9	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Seminar: Energy Saving Tips For Consumers	Conference Rooms 2/3 Fairfax County Government Center
Tuesday, March 9	6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Seminar: How to Hire a Home Improvement Contractor	Sherwood Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane Alexandria, VA
Tuesday, March 9	10:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Consumer Focus: What's In Your Credit Report?	Fairfax County Government Channel 16
Wednesday, March 10	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Consumer Affairs Information Booth	Access Fairfax, Suite 125 South County Center 8350 Richmond Highway Alexandria, VA
Wednesday, March 10	10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Consumer Affairs Information Booth	Northern Virginia Community College 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
Wednesday, March 10	6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Consumer Focus: What's In Your Credit Report?	Fairfax County Government Channel 16
Thursday, March 11	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Seminar: What's In Your Credit Report?	Herrity Building, Room 107 12055 Government Center Parkway
Friday, March 12	3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Consumer Focus: What's In Your Credit Report?	Fairfax County Government Channel 16

For more information or to register for a seminar, contact Consumer Affairs:

E-mail: consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov Office: (703) 222-8435 TTY 711